(b) if so, what measures Government are contemplating to overcome the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Aid India Consortium's suggestion for increasing annual growth rate

2342. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Aid India Consortium has urged the Government of India to achieve at least 5 per cent annual growth rate; and

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) While the Consortium acknowledged India's long term goals of economic development and poverty alleviation, the Consortium also noted that these objectives are being pursued in the context of maintaining an economic growth rate of at least 5 per cent a year. These objectives, the meeting agreed, would be achieved through greater agricultural productivity, increased exports, improvements in human resource development and continued sound macro-economic management.

The targetted growth rate for the 7th Five Year Plan is 5 per cent. The development priorities and investment programmes have been worked out in accordance with this targetted growth rate.

Export of Cotton

2343. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government are planning to allow the export of surplus cotton; and

(b) how much cotton is being exported at present to help cotton growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) As per the long term export policy for cotton announced by the Government, export of cotton surplus to domestic requirements up to specific limits is allowed. However, on account of fall in cotton production and steep rise in prices in 1987-88, exports of staple cotton were suspended.

Export of Farm Products

2344. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the farm products being exported;

(b) whether there is a great demand for Indian farm products in foreign countries; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to increase the farm products to boost export during the Seventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Exports of farm products has shown significant growth in recent years. A statement indicating exports of major agricultural commodities as per provisional estimates is annexed. (*See* below).

There is good demand for Indian agricultural items in the international markets, subject to our commodities being price competitive and meeting international quality specifications.

Steps being taken to increase export include grant of Cash Compensatory Support (CCS) and REP on various agricultural items, visits by trade delegations